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(NIG)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/711,595 Confirmation No.: 7924
Applicant: Mamoru Shinohara
Filed: November 13, 2000
TC/A.U.: 2623
Examiner: Samir Anwar Ahmed
Docket No.: 075834.00053
Customer No.: 33448

AMENDMENT A

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

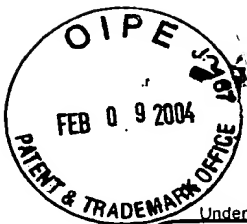
S I R:

In response to the Office Action of November 6, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.



2623

PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

Approved for use through 08/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 09/711,595 |
| | Filing Date | November 13, 2000 |
| | First Named Inventor | Mamoru Shinohara |
| | Art Unit | 2623 |
| | Examiner Name | Samir Anwar Ahmed |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | 075834.00053 |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | Remarks | |
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| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | Technology Center 2600 |
| Firm or Individual name | Robert J. Depke, Holland & Knight LLC 131 South Dearborn Street, 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603 | |
| Signature | | |
| Date | 2/6/04 | |

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | |
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| Typed or printed name | Robert J. Depke (Reg. No. 37,607) | |
| Signature | | Date 2/6/04 |

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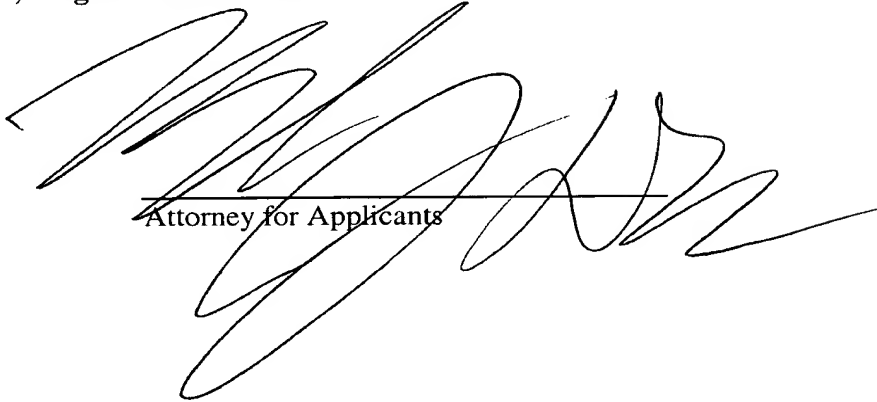
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Appl. No. 09/711,595
Amdt. Dated February 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2003

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Attorney for Applicants